

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A stirred tank for storing a part of beer yeast slurry discharged from fermentation tanks where beer is fermented, and then returning the part of beer yeast slurry to the fermentation tanks for reuse, comprising a tank body having a substantially cylindrical shape with a bottom portion having an inverted cone shape, a jacket disposed on a periphery of the tank body within which a cooling medium is circulated so as to cool the beer yeast slurry, and a stirring impeller made up of vertically oriented surfaces with no main stirring surface that is slanted from vertical, having a shape and size varied in a vertical orientation, which variation is configured to achieve vertical flow of the beer yeast slurry, and positioned within the tank body of the stirred tank, and having a lower side with a slanting surface to match the inverted cone shape of the bottom portion of the tank body, said stirring impeller being so constructed that a maximum diameter of a rotation body defined by the rotation of the stirring impeller is 60-90% of the inner diameter of the stirred tank, and the height of the rotation body is 70% or more of a depth of the part of beer yeast slurry stored in the stirred tank.

2. (Original) A stirred tank according to claim 1, wherein the maximum diameter of the rotation body defined by the rotation of the stirring impeller is 70-90% of the inner diameter of the stirred tank.

3. (Currently Amended) A stirred tank according to claim 1, wherein the height of the rotation body defined by the rotation of the stirring impeller is 90-120% of the depth of the beer yeast slurry.

4.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A stirred tank according to claim 2, wherein the height of the rotation body defined by the rotation of the stirring impeller is 90-120% of the depth of the beer yeast slurry.

10.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A stirred tank according to claim 1, wherein the stirring impeller has no hole or opening.

17.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A stirred tank according to claim 1, wherein the stirring impeller includes a rotational shaft, a first paddle blade, and a second paddle blade, wherein the first paddle blade and the second paddle blade are affixed to the rotational shaft, and wherein the first paddle blade is affixed to the rotational shaft at an angle offset from the second paddle blade.

21. (Previously Presented) A stirred tank according to claim 20, wherein the first paddle blade is affixed to the rotational shaft at a horizontal elevation above the second paddle blade.

22. (Previously Presented) A stirred tank according to claim 21, wherein a portion of the first paddle blade and a portion of the second paddle blade overlap each other in the horizontal elevation.

23.-31. (Canceled)